

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 16659 090953Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----069184 090956Z /21

O 090947Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1250
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 16659

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR MOPS PINT LE IS EG SY
SUBJECT: LEBANON: U.S. STEPS

REF: (A) STATE 172481, (B) STATE 171142,
(C) CAIRO 16653 (NOTAL)

1. MET THIS MORNING WITH NEW MFA UNDERSEC KHALIL TO
DISCUSS U.S. EFFORTS TO DEFUSE CURRENT LEBANESE CRISIS.
HE WAS SO NEW TO HIS JOB THAT HE HAD WITH HIM THREE
COLLEAGUES TO TAKE NOTES AND TO GIVE ADVICE AS NEEDED.

2. IN MAKING PRESENTATION, I DREW IN DETAIL ON PARAS 3
THROUGH 7 OF REF A. AFTER I HAD FINISHED, I SAID THAT
WE ASSUME GOE SHARES OUR CONCERN ABOUT LEBANESE CRISIS
AND THAT WE WILL APPRECIATE ANY ACTION GOE IS ABLE TO
TAKE TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO DEFUSE THE CRISIS. WE
WILL ALSO WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS GOE MAY HAVE ON HOW THIS
OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE MIGHT QUICKLY BE ACHIEVED.

3. KHALIL LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AS ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES
SECRET

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TOOK EXTENSIVE NOTES. KHALIL THEN THANKED ME AND SAID
GOE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT LEBANESE CRISIS. (HE DID
NOT INDICATE ANY PARTICULAR SENSE OF URGENCY.) HE WAS
NOT AWARE OF ANY STEPS GOE TAKING TO TRY TO CALM
THE SITUATION, NOTING EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT IS
CURRENTLY HEADED BY CHARGE. HE THOUGHT GOE MIGHT BE OF
SOME HELP WITH SARKIS AND UNDERTOOK SEND FULL REPORT OF

OUR CONVERSATION TO SADAT IN VIENNA IN THE BELIEF THAT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO SARKIS FROM THERE.

4. KHALIL WENT ON TO SAY SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY THAT GOE'S INFLUENCE IN LEBANON IS LIMITED. IT HAS CONTACTS WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, BUT NOT WITH THE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN LEADERS. AS WE ALSO KNEW, EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH SYRIA ARE STRAINED; HENCE HE THOUGHT THERE IS LITTLE GOE CAN DO WITH SYRIA. WITH RESPECT TO ISRAEL, KHALIL SAID THAT GOE LOOKS TO USG TO RESTRAIN THE ISRAELIS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ALLUDED TO REPORTS OF ISRAELI TROOP REINFORCEMENTS ON LEBANESE SOUTHERN BORDER. HE NOTED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE DENIED THIS REPORT, BUT ASKED IF WE COULD CONFIRM THE VALIDITY OF THIS ISRAELI DENIAL.

5. WE AGREED TO STAY IN TOUCH.

6. COMMENT: AS INDICATED REF C, KHALIL IS NEW AND IN ANY CASE HAS NO DIRECT AUTHORITY TO ACT. HIS RESPONSE WAS PREDICTABLE, I.E. SENDING A REPORT TO SADAT AND FONMIN KAMEL IN VIENNA FOR ANY ACTION THEY MAY CARE TO TAKE.
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